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8 January 1954

Brief of Letter from Val Peterson:

1. Life Insurance Association of America has established Committee on Civil Defense to work closely with FCDA.

2. Committee members are:

James T. Phillips, Vice-Pres., N. Y. Life Ins. Co.

Samuel Milligan, Senior Vice-Pres., Metropolitan

Gerhard D. Bleicken, Vice-Pres., John Hancock

3. Governor Peterson recommends "complete and frank briefing" by CIA and other appropriate agencies.

4. FCDA has asked the Committee members to fill out necessary questionnaires for "Q" and "TS" clearances.



FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

DEC 29 1959

Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

This Administration has long been concerned over the serious economic consequence of an atomic attack on business, commerce, and industry in the United States. It has also been attempting, by every means at its disposal, to stimulate the active participation of private industry in furthering the national civil defense program.

In this general connection, the Life Insurance Association of America has recently established a Committee on Civil Defense for the purpose of examining all aspects of civil defense and advising the life insurance industry as to the steps that should be taken, both by the Association as representative of the industry, and by individual companies. Members of this Committee are: James T. Phillips, Vice-President, New York Life Insurance Company, Chairman; Samuel Milligan, Senior Vice-President, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; and Gerhard D. Bleicken, Vice-President, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company.

We welcome this Committee, since the industry it represents can exert a tremendous influence for improving our overall national defense. Through the policy holders and the companies that form the Association, an estimated seventy percent of the adult population of the United States can be reached to increase public awareness and willingness to participate in civil defense. Also, the extensive investments the insurance companies are making in our urban areas provide a lever for raising standards of construction and for effecting dispersion which may contribute in the long run to reduction of urban vulnerability. At the same time, insurance companies can actively participate in our search for means to avoid or minimize social, economic, legal, and administrative disruption that attack on this country would cause. I like to regard this Committee as a pilot-project, from which we can learn how best to bring large segments of industry into our non-military defense preparations.

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Honorable Allen W. Dulles

In discharging its great responsibility to the Life Insurance Association, the Committee wishes to review the significant components of the national defense picture. To do this expeditiously, a series of briefings is proposed by the Committee. While it may appear that this Committee should not need such a briefing in order to comprehend the reality and nature of the threat, or the measures that need to be taken, since so much on these subjects has appeared in the public press and in speeches of high officials, we all know that many private executives have not responded adequately, and there is little wonder that the public and private industry generally are uncertain about the threat and our defenses.

In view of the potential value of this Committee, not only to this Agency but to others concerned with our national preparedness, I wish to assist them in obtaining a complete and frank briefing. To do this, it seems necessary that the members be cleared. Accordingly, the three members have been asked to complete the necessary security questionnaires for both "Top Secret" and "Q" clearances. Because of the rigid schedule imposed on the committee members by work in their own companies and because of the urgency of the studies the Committee will make, it is highly desirable that the Committee be cleared and that the briefings be initiated by the end of January 1954.

I hope that you will concur as to the desirability of thoroughly briefing this Committee and that our staff may work with yours in arranging a briefing schedule for those topics dealing with Soviet capabilities. If I may assist in any way in this matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Sincerely,



Val Peterson